

# MYSTICARTSCENTER

CREATIVITY CULTURE COMMUNITY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The 31st Photo Show Opens at the Mystic Arts Center**

**MYSTIC, CT – September 22, 2009** - The Mystic Arts Center will host an opening reception for two new exhibitions on Thursday, October 8 from 6 – 8 pm: **The Connecticut Women Artists Members Juried Show** and the **Mystic Arts Center's 31<sup>st</sup> Photo Show**.

The MAC 31st Photo Show features nearly 100 original photographic images in black and white, color and digitally enhanced formats. Eight prizes will be awarded during the opening reception, including monetary prizes for first (\$350), second (\$250), and third (\$150) place and a new \$300 Cate Charles Gallery Award.

The exhibit is juried by prolific photographer, journalist and author Peter Miller, who is best known for his portraits of rural Americans and books of photographic work. Miller began his career in the early 1950s as an assistant to master portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh, an opportunity that allowed Miller to photograph such greats as Picasso, Albert Schweitzer, and Pablo Casals.

Miller also worked as a photographer in Paris for the US Army Signal Corp, as a writer for *Life* magazine, and contributor to many other prestigious magazines of the past thirty years. Today Miller lives in Vermont where he operates the Peter Miller Photography Gallery.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Photo Show is sponsored by ABC PhotoLab and Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism.

The Connecticut Women Artists exhibition features new work by CWA members. The organization is celebrating its founding 80 years ago, when it began to provide a forum for women's artwork when few were available. Today, CWA has two hundred active members and two annual exhibitions each year.

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In honor of CWA's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, five paintings by founding member Edith Briscoe Stevens (1898 – 1931) will be on display during the exhibition. Stevens lived in Philadelphia, Hartford, and eventually East Gloucester, Massachusetts, while rising to prominence as an artist.

She studied at the Hartford Art School and in Europe, and exhibited her work at the Wadsworth Atheneum and Toledo Art Museum, as well as in galleries in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Detroit, and Buffalo. Stevens was known for versatile, powerful plein air landscapes and marine scenes of New England's coastline and trips abroad to France, Spain and Morocco.

Stevens died tragically young just two years after *Boston Globe* critic AJ Philpott said she gave promise of being one of the best landscape painters in the country.

For more information about CWA, visit [www.ctwomenartists.org](http://www.ctwomenartists.org).

The opening for these exhibitions is free and open to the public, and the works will be on display through November 14. The Mystic Arts Center is open daily from 11 am – 5 pm with a suggested donation of \$3 per person.

The Mystic Arts Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting creativity, culture, and community through rotating exhibits, art classes, educational programs and special events. The Mystic Arts Center is located at 9 Water Street in downtown Mystic. For more information, call 860.536.7601 or visit [www.mysticarts.org](http://www.mysticarts.org).

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